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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

New Partnership for Africa's Development: twelfth consolidated progress report on implementation and international support

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report, submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 68/301, coincides with the formulation of the African Union's Agenda 2063, shaping a new direction in the continent towards regional integration and achieving African renaissance. Agenda 2063 and the international commitment to support its implementation provide an additional impetus to the role of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and highlight the need for further support. The report also coincides with the Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, held on 14 and 15 June 2014 in Dakar, at which participants adopted the Dakar Agenda for Action to prioritize the financing of key regional infrastructure projects. Furthermore, in the solemn declaration adopted by the African Union Summit on 26 May 2013 on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/African Union key priorities for the continent's development over the next 50 years were identified, with particular emphasis on industrialization. This is also an important pillar of the African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda, adopted by the African Union in January 2014. As a result, the importance of the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency is increasing as it becomes the vehicle for the implementation of Agenda 2063.

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The present report assesses progress achieved in implementing NEPAD projects and programmes, as well as support provided by the international community over the past 12 months. While highlighting the progress African countries made in implementing NEPAD, the report underscores the continued need for African countries to strengthen domestic resource mobilization to underpin financing for NEPAD programmes and projects. Engaging the private sector will also be key to mobilizing the necessary funding for NEPAD projects, particularly in infrastructure. The report calls upon the international community to prioritize its support for Africa and to align its support to NEPAD priorities, including those encapsulated in the African Common Position and the forthcoming African Union Agenda 2063. To strengthen international cooperation for development and facilitate the implementation of NEPAD, development partners should take urgent steps to successfully conclude the Doha Round of trade negotiations with a development dimension, deliver on aid commitments and improve aid effectiveness. In view of the rapidly approaching deadline for the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, juxtaposed with the urgent task of accelerating progress towards achieving the goals in Africa, business as usual is not an option for Africa or its development partners.

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 68/301, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support", the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution to the Assembly at its sixty-ninth session. The present report is submitted pursuant to that resolution.

2. The report highlights policy measures taken by African countries and organizations in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), as well as the response of the international community and support provided by the United Nations system during the past year. The activities undertaken by the private sector and civil society in support of NEPAD are also highlighted. The report benefited from information provided by Member States, the African Development Bank (AfDB), the NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NEPAD Agency), the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, the regional economic communities, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), members of the Interdepartmental Task Force on African Affairs organizations of the United Nations system and other NEPAD stakeholders.

II. Action taken by African countries and organizations

3. NEPAD is both a collective vision and a strategic socioeconomic development framework for Africa. Its main objective is to generate broad-based and equitable economic growth that allows Africa to reduce poverty and better integrate into the global economy. Translating this vision into action requires implementation of the key sectoral priorities of NEPAD. Each country is expected to assume responsibility for implementing the NEPAD programme at the national level and designing a national blueprint consistent with NEPAD goals. In addition, the regional economic communities, which are the operational arms of the African Union in driving the integration agenda, play a leading role in implementing projects at the subregional level. The NEPAD Agency plays an instrumental role in coordinating the implementation of subregional and continental programmes and projects.

A. Infrastructure

4. In recognition of the importance of infrastructure development, African countries committed to making it a top priority through the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, which serves as the overarching framework for infrastructure development in Africa. In line with their commitments, African countries continued to make efforts over the past 12 months to accelerate infrastructure development through the implementation of the Programme, with the aim of transforming Africa through the development of infrastructure in transport, energy, information and communication technologies, as well as transboundary waterways.

5. The NEPAD Agency continued to coordinate development of infrastructure across the continent through the implementation of the Programme's Priority Action Plan, which comprises 51 continental and regional projects, including seven projects

that are spearheaded by seven African Heads of State and Government and implemented under the Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative.

6. Over the past 12 months, efforts were focused on project preparation and financing for the Programme's Priority Action Plan projects and programmes. Of the 51 projects and programmes, 16 national and regional priority infrastructure projects were identified as quick wins for financing and implementation. These projects were showcased at the Financing Summit for Africa's Infrastructure, held on 14 and 15 June in Dakar, with a view to securing financing through innovative synergies between the public and private sector. The Summit adopted the Dakar Agenda for Action in order to prioritize the financing of the 16 priority infrastructure pilot projects and to start feasibility studies and project preparation in order to accelerate the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa.

7. With respect to the implementation of Presidential Infrastructure Champion Initiative projects, the "Missing link of the trans-Saharan highway" project, covering more than 4,500 kilometres, and linking Algeria and Nigeria, has seen considerable progress, with financing of $40 million having been secured. The implementation process has already commenced and the project is expected to be completed in 2016. The optic fibre component of the project, linking Algeria, Nigeria and the Niger through a submarine cable, has also seen substantial progress with the completion of 60 per cent of the project. Egypt formally launched the "Navigational route between Lake Victoria and the Mediterranean Sea" project in June 2013.

8. Despite progress made by African countries in mobilizing funding, lack of financing remains the major obstacle to the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa. In this context, AfDB, at its annual meeting held in Kigali, in May 2014, launched the "Africa50 Initiative" to mobilize over $100 billion from public and private sources to finance priority regional infrastructure projects on the continent over the next 50 years. The initiative will target high-impact national and regional projects in energy, transport, information and communications technologies and water.

9. Furthermore, following the launch of the Sustainable Energy for All African Coordination Hub in July 2013, the NEPAD Agency, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Union Commission and AfDB, organized expert meetings that led to the preparation and adoption of the Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL) African Action Plan Guidelines, Africa's Strategy for Decentralized Energy Solutions and the African Sustainable Charcoal Policy Framework. All of these initiatives were approved by the Conference of Energy Ministers in Africa.

B. Agriculture and food security

10. African countries have continued to make progress on several important commitments promoting agricultural development and food security. Within the context of the Maputo Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security in Africa, African countries committed themselves to allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agriculture and, through the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to achieving a 6 per cent growth rate in agricultural productivity per annum. To mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption

of the Programme in 2013 and to focus national attention on Africa's agriculture, African leaders declared 2014 to be the Year of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition.

11. During the review period, African countries continued to implement the commitments of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme. With regard to the Maputo Declaration target of allocating at least 10 per cent of national budgetary resources to agriculture, progress continued with 12 countries reaching or surpassing the target, while 13 others were in the 5 to 10 per cent range. As at December 2013, 45 African countries engaged in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme process, of which 39 signed Programme compacts and 29 finalized their national agriculture investment plans. Some countries, including Botswana, Namibia and South Africa used their national agriculture investment plans to increase financing for social safety net programmes, such as school feeding programmes.

12. The NEPAD Agency spearheaded the formulation of a "results framework" for sustaining momentum on the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme, to enable the continent to draw lessons from the last 10 years of the Programme's implementation. This provided the basis for defining a plan of action for the next 10 years and beyond — underpinned by a resolve to ensure sustainable transformation in the continent's agricultural systems. The Programme's results framework has been designed as an integral part of the forthcoming African Union Agenda 2063 — developing the desired level and rate of agricultural performance in contribution to attaining its goals.

13. To improve food security across the continent, the Africa-led Africa Solidarity Trust Fund was launched in June 2013 with a seed capital of $30 million from Equatorial Guinea and is managed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Additional funding from Angola ($10 million) and a group of civil society organizations in the Republic of the Congo has brought the total amount to $40 million.

14. Furthermore, in September 2013, as part of the third call for public sector window proposals the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program approved a total funding of approximately $250 million for eight countries, four of which are African (Burkina Faso, Zambia, Uganda and Mali). This has brought the total number of African countries that have received funding under the Program to 15, with a cumulative total receipt of approximately $870 million.

15. At the global level, the United Nations General Assembly launched the International Year of Family Farming in 2014 to focus its support on small-holder farmers, especially women in Africa by facilitating access to better seeds, fertilizers, markets, finance, and extension services.

C. Health

16. Health remains a key priority for African countries. The NEPAD Agency has been at the forefront of mobilizing funds from bilateral partners to support the training of nurses and midwives across the continent and strengthen African health-care research. Moreover, the African Union has increased its commitment to improving health outcomes by underscoring the importance of increased investment

in health technology and innovation as specified in the forthcoming African Union Agenda 2063.

17. The declaration of the 2013 special summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, reaffirmed the commitment of African Governments to accelerate the implementation of existing frameworks, such as the Abuja Declaration and Plan of Action on Roll Back Malaria in Africa and the Abuja call for accelerated action towards universal access to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria services in Africa by 2010.

18. The African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization Programme has made noteworthy progress during the period under review. The Programme aims to improve public health by increasing access to sustainable supplies of safe and effective medicines in Africa, based on the principles contained in the African Union Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan of Action and the road map for shared responsibility and global solidarity for AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria response in Africa, from 2012 to 2015.

19. Noteworthy progress has also been made in identifying the impacts of child undernutrition in Africa. The results from the first phase of the initiative on the cost of hunger in Africa were published during the period under review. The preliminary results from the case studies were generated from research conducted in the four first-phase countries: Egypt, Ethiopia, Swaziland, and Uganda. The report reveals that child mortality related to undernutrition accounts for nearly 1 to 8 per cent of workforce losses in the analysed countries.[1]

20. Research on health systems continues to develop in Africa. The Africa Health Systems Initiative — Support to African Research Partnerships programme supported ten research teams that examined numerous health-related challenges, including quality of care, availability of health personnel, access to mental health services and health information technology. The programme has reached its final year but since its launch in 2008, it has provided substantial support to researchers in African countries.

21. Efforts to combat the HIV/AIDS epidemic have intensified through the collaboration of multiple stakeholders. Significant gains have been made in scaling up HIV/AIDS treatment, which has resulted in a reduction in the number of AIDS-related deaths in Africa. However, significant challenges remain. On the continent, only 54 per cent of those eligible for antiretroviral treatment have access, with increasingly fewer children who need HIV treatment accessing it.

D. Education and training

22. African countries are making every effort to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals of universal primary education and gender equality in education, including through the Dakar Framework for Action on Education for All. Achievements have been made possible through sustainable public investment to increase participation while implementing retention actions (school feeding programmes, cash transfers etc.).

[1] See documents.wfp.org/stellent/groups/public/documents/resources/wfp260859.pdf.

23. Against this background, the NEPAD Agency continued to promote training and educational interventions that strengthen primary health care, including through the establishment of a centre for training and development for teachers in science, mathematics and technology, and a programme on nursing and midwifery education in Africa. The programme is currently being implemented in Cameroon, Gabon and the Congo with the aim of upgrading the skills of nurses and midwives.

24. Continuing progress has been evident in efforts to strengthen clinical human resources development in Africa. During the period under review, the NEPAD Nursing and Midwifery Education in Africa programme and the Government of Cameroon developed a new Master's-level programme for nurses and midwives. The one-year programme established an academic partnership between Stellenbosch University in South Africa and the University of Yaoundé in Cameroon.

25. Progress was also made in the implementation of the Global Education First Initiative, launched by the United Nations Secretary-General with the aim of accelerating progress toward education goals by encouraging Governments to bolster financial and political support for education initiatives. During the period under review, two additional African countries — Benin and Ethiopia — joined the Initiative as champion countries, bringing to five the number of participating African countries out of the total of 14 champion countries.

26. Champion countries collaborate with the Global Education First Initiative secretariat on an annual basis to develop a list of planned activities. The eleventh Education for All Global Monitoring Report highlighted progress made towards reaching the global education framework by 2015 and identified ongoing challenges. According to the report, progress has been slow for many African countries with regard to adult literacy, gender parity, school enrolment and teachers' wages.

27. The continent continues to face challenges, including many children and youth out of school, especially girls and young women, disadvantaged and marginalized rural and nomadic populations, significant regional disparities in higher education and low transition rates to tertiary education.

E. Environment and tourism

28. The NEPAD Agency's activities in the area of environment focused on strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of regional coordination mechanisms such as the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment to facilitate cooperation among countries, enhance synergies, and promote coordinated responses to existing and emerging challenges, capacity needs and specific issues.

29. The NEPAD Agency, through the Ministerial Conference, assisted in promoting a coordinated and regional approach to environmental management, particularly through strengthening the participation of African countries in international policy processes. It also supported the Conference in the development of African common positions in international negotiations, which resulted in Africa increasing its participation and voice in international environmental governance.

30. As a means to ensure the effective implementation of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want", the Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment and the African

Union have developed concept notes for five regional flagship programmes to enable African countries to promote sustainable development and adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. The concept notes, which were reviewed during the Expert Meeting of the Africa Ministerial Conference, convened in April 2013 in the United Republic of Tanzania, will serve as an overall regional framework for the further development and implementation of the regional flagship programmes.

31. In September 2013, the NEPAD Agency facilitated Africa's participation and engagement at the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, held in Windhoek, by hosting the Africa pavilion in conjunction with the African Union Commission. This enabled African countries and institutions to showcase their efforts at addressing desertification and land degradation on the continent.

32. In partnership with the secretariat of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment, the NEPAD Agency facilitated meetings between the Conference and their counterparts during the high-level segment of the nineteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Warsaw, which enabled the African Group to consolidate Africa's common position on the outcomes of the fifth special session of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment that was held in October 2013 in Gaborone. The ministerial meeting also assisted in strengthening the African consensus on the road to post-Kyoto agreements.

33. With regard to tourism, during the period under review, the NEPAD Agency undertook to promote and advocate for the NEPAD Tourism Action Plan at various national and international forums, including with the Government of South Africa at the nineteenth edition of the Tunisian tourism fair "International Tourism Market", held from 24 to 27 April 2013, in Tunis; at the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in Yokohama, Japan, in June 2013; and at the twentieth session of the General Assembly of the World Tourism Organization, jointly hosted by Zambia and Zimbabwe in August 2013.

F. Information and communications technology

34. The NEPAD Agency continued to support African countries in the development of information and communications technology on the continent. During the period under review, actions focused on achieving progress in all four pillars of the NEPAD eAfrica Programme, namely: information and communications technology infrastructure, capacity development, e-applications and services, and enabling environment and governance.

35. During the review period, the design phase of the impact evaluation for the NEPAD eSchools Initiative was conducted with grant from the International Initiative for Impact Evaluation. The e-Africa Programme signed an agreement with First Space Fiber to develop a model framework for e-schools using Senegal as a test case. Under the agreement, First Space Fiber has started to provide a complete solution (hardware, training, content and maintenance) to all six e-schools in Senegal. The piloting in the e-schools will inform wider rollout to other schools in Senegal and will also feed into the wider continental strategy.

36. Progress was also made with regard to the e-Africa Programme. The Programme successfully concluded a study entitled "Strengthening grassroots participation in agricultural and rural development policy processes through information and communications technologies", funded by the Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation. Findings from the study were disseminated at the Information and Communications Technologies for Agriculture Conference held in Kigali in November 2013 and the recommendations contained therein will inform further work to integrate information and communication technologies in the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme processes.

37. In the second half of 2013, the e-Africa Programme, in collaboration with the African Union's Division of Information Society and the dotAfrica Steering Committee, finalized the dotAfrica Reserved Names List Policy. As a result, African countries will be able to protect website names of their national heritages (geographic, cultural, historic etc.) by reserving them through the dotAfrica Reserved Names List portal. Excess funds generated by the dotAfrica registry will go to the dotAfrica Foundation, which will support the development of the Internet and information and communications technology on the African continent.

G. Science, technology and innovation

38. In the review period, the NEPAD Agency continued its work in science and technology through the implementation of its Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action, which centres on the three interrelated pillars of capacity-building, knowledge production and technological innovation.

39. The Southern Africa Network for Bioscience was reconfigured to align it more closely with the NEPAD Agency/African Biosciences Initiative Strategy 2016 vision of demonstrating research results and development impacts. In addition, the African Biosafety Network of Expertise developed biosafety administration guidelines for use and adaptation by African Union member States. In order to create an enabling environment, technical support was provided to five countries, namely, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria and Togo in the drafting and reviewing of various regulations and guidelines related to biosafety.

40. With respect to capacity-building efforts, the NEPAD Agency organized training to strengthen regulatory capacity for ongoing field and multilocation trial inspections, monitoring, and compliance for regulators in Ghana, Malawi and Nigeria. This resulted in the adoption of best practices for inspectorate functions, strengthened competencies and increased confidence in the regulatory systems of those countries. Technical support was also provided to national systems in Ghana, Kenya, Malawi and Nigeria for the development and implementation of biosafety communications strategies.

41. The African Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators Initiative of the NEPAD Agency works to improve the quality of science, technology and innovation policies at national, regional and continental levels. More than 150 experts were trained in research, development and innovation, including in methodologies for measurement, data collection and analysis, and linkages between science, technology and innovation indicators, science policies and development. The training strengthened countries' abilities to apply internationally acceptable

standards to the collection of their national science, technology and innovation statistics.

H. Gender mainstreaming, empowerment of women and civil society participation

42. In the past 12 months, African Governments continued to work towards the implementation of important commitments related to gender equality and women's empowerment, including those made in the African Union Gender Policy, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, as well as the priorities of the African Women's Decade (2010-2020). These instruments have galvanized significant action on the part of the NEPAD Agency in the areas of health, human rights, education, economic development, governance and peace and security.

43. During the reporting period, activities undertaken by the Gender Programme focused on continental gender mainstreaming and implementation of the projects approved during the second call for proposals of the NEPAD/Spanish Fund for African Women's Empowerment, the flagship project of the NEPAD gender programme. In addition, the NEPAD gender programme engaged in the validation of the scope and methodology for the design of the new conceptual framework for gender mainstreaming of continental African Union/NEPAD programmes and its four-year action plan.

44. Of the 10 million euros disbursed to the NEPAD/Spanish Fund, 8.4 million were earmarked to fund 32 projects for a period of two years. The thematic sectors covered during the second call for proposals were streamlined to include: (a) economic empowerment; (b) civil society strengthening; and (c) institutional strengthening.

45. During the period under review, several NEPAD gender projects and programmes recorded notable success. The Sudan Peace and Education Programme improved food security and sustained livelihoods of women farmers in Morobo and Magwi counties through seed provision, economic support and capacity-building in modern techniques for subsistence farming and water harvesting, resulting in a 38 per cent increase in agricultural yields in targeted regions.

46. While much success was achieved during the reporting period, much more efforts are needed to address challenges which include lack of capacity of beneficiaries, unforeseen political instabilities in certain countries and difficulties in operationalizing a results-based approach. Overall, there is also need for a Fund dedicated solely to gender mainstreaming in Africa in order to reduce fragmentation of efforts and address the gap in financing for gender equality.

I. African Peer Review Mechanism

47. In 2002, in recognition of the negative impact of poor governance on development, African Heads of State and Government adopted the NEPAD Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance, in which they committed themselves to improving institutions of governance and

promoting the rule of law. As a result, in March 2003, the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee established the African Peer Review Mechanism.

48. During the period under review, the Mechanism continued to strengthen and institutionalize good political, economic and corporate governance throughout the continent. In January 2014, Equatorial Guinea joined the Mechanism, bringing its membership to the following 34 countries: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

49. In spite of a steady increase in membership, there is slow progress in the conduct of national review exercises, partly due to financial constraints. South Africa and Mozambique submitted their respective progress reports on the implementation of their national programmes of action for review by the African Peer Review Forum during the twentieth summit, held in January 2014. As at June 2014, the following 17 countries have been reviewed: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

50. In the context of the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Mechanism in 2013, its governing bodies and its strategic partners, namely UNDP, the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa and AfDB, organized a series of events to raise awareness of the importance of its work among African citizens and the international community, while reflecting on progress and ongoing challenges. At the global level, the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, in collaboration with the Department of Public Information the African Union, the NEPAD Agency and the African Peer Review Mechanism secretariat, organized the Africa-NEPAD week: Celebrating APRM @10 on the margins of the General Assembly debate on Africa in October 2013. This contributed to raising awareness at the international community and the African diaspora of Africa's progress in the area of governance through the Mechanism.

51. Ten years on, the Mechanism has established itself as a unique and innovative framework for promoting good governance as well as durable peace and sustainable development in Africa.[2] It has created a platform for African peer learning and sharing of experiences and best practices, in addition to engendering a more open polity and strengthening government-civic engagement. The involvement of civil society and other stakeholders has enriched the content of the national programmes of action.

[2] See the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa (A/69/162).

III. Response of the international community: building on the momentum of the international support for Africa's development

A. Introduction

52. The response of the international community has been mixed. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), although global economic activities increased considerably in the second half of 2013, growth in gross domestic product (GDP) remained relatively unchanged, averaging 3 per cent in 2013, compared to 3.2 per cent in 2012. The United States economy strengthened considerably in 2013. The euro area economies returned to positive growth, albeit small.

53. In this international context, Africa continued to show strong resilience with GDP growth averaging 4 per cent in 2013, 1 per cent faster than the global average. Though the recovery in commodity prices has been important for Africa's recovery from the global economic slowdown, efforts undertaken by African countries to reform their economies, tackle conflicts and strengthen governance have also played an important role in supporting growth. According to the *African Economic Outlook 2014*, the continent's future outlook is promising, with growth expected to return to the pre-crisis level of 6.5 per cent.

54. Despite improved performance, growth in Africa remains inadequate to make significant progress in poverty reduction. More remains to be done to raise growth to the 7 per cent target considered critical for sustained poverty reduction as well as for progress towards the achievement of other Millennium Development Goals targets. Subdued growth performance in advanced economies, especially the anaemic growth in Africa's largest trading partners, coupled with likely slowdown in the emerging economies, may undermine progress towards achievement of internationally agreed development goals.

55. Against this backdrop and in the light of the rapidly approaching deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, a strengthened and sustained global partnership will be important for sustaining recent development gains and accelerating progress towards reaching internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Over the years, development partners have made several commitments relating to Africa's development, including implementation of NEPAD priorities. The implementation of those commitments will be critical in supporting African countries to overcome their development challenges and meet the Millennium Development Goals.

56. In recognition of the importance of implementing commitments, the General Assembly, by its resolution 66/293, established a monitoring mechanism to review implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development needs and, subsequently, by its resolution 68/247, to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa to enable it to effectively implement its increasing mandates. The mechanism will provide much-needed impetus to the implementation of commitments made in relation to Africa, thus enhancing the developmental impact of international cooperation in favour of Africa. The first interim report of the Secretary-General on the review of the implementation of commitments made towards Africa's development needs, (A/69/163) will be submitted to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session in September 2014.

57. The report assesses progress in the implementation of commitments by African countries, traditional development partners and the new and emerging development partners in the four selected themes of agriculture and food security, financing for development, environment and climate change, and governance. The interim report indicates that, while progress has been made in the implementation of commitments by African countries and their development partners, progress remains uneven across both themes and country groupings. The report also points to the existence of major gaps in the implementation of commitments, which undermine the attainment of Africa's sustainable development objectives.

58. The first follow-up ministerial meeting of the fifth Tokyo International Conference on African Development was held in Yaoundé in May 2014 and was coorganized by the Government of Japan, the African Union Commission, the United Nations, represented by the Office of Special Adviser on Africa, UNDP and the World Bank. The meeting assessed progress made in the implementation of the Yokohama Action Plan 2013-2017 and endorsed the Implementation Matrix of the Action Plan, which contains 617 concrete development initiatives that were collectively submitted by African Member States, African regional institutions and development partners.

59. At the recently concluded Group of 7 (G7) summit held in Brussels, Belgium on 4 and 5 June 2014, the industrialized countries committed to working towards improving transparency of the extractive industry through developing common global standards to ensure disclosure of payments that companies make to Governments. They reaffirmed their commitment to the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition under strong African leadership. They also reaffirmed their commitment to end financial secrecy and tax evasion through the rapid implementation of the new single global standard for the automatic exchange of tax information. These measures, if fully implemented, could help African countries to recover lost resources vital for financing the NEPAD agenda.

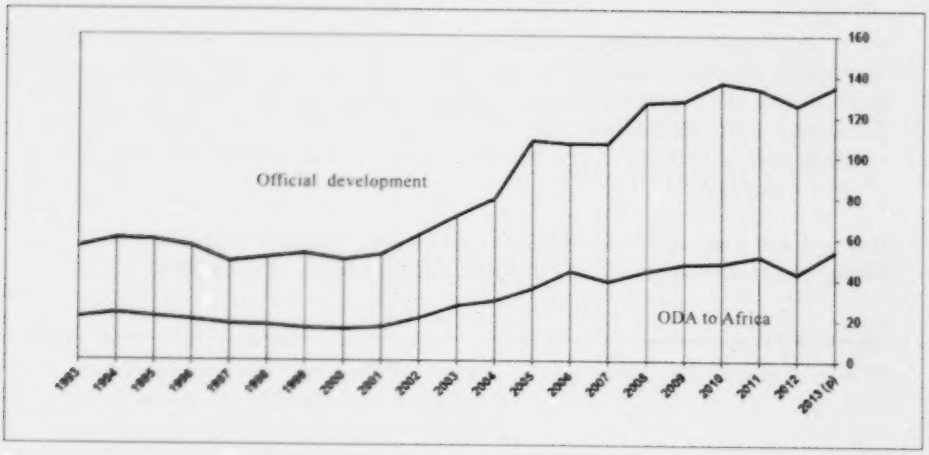
60. At the fourth European Union-Africa Summit convened in Belgium in 2014, African and European countries committed themselves to further strengthening trade and investment ties between the two continents, as well as cooperation on peace and security. The European Union also committed to supporting Africa in preparing climate resilient and low emission development strategies.

61. Following his first visit to Africa in July 2013, where he unveiled the "Power Africa" and "Trade Africa" initiatives, President Obama convened the first United States-Africa Leaders' Summit on 5 and 6 August 2014 in Washington, D.C. The Summit sought to strengthen United States-Africa relations, especially in the areas of trade and investment.

B. Official development assistance

62. According to preliminary OECD data (see figure below), total net official development assistance (ODA) from Development Assistance Committee countries totalled $134.8 billion in 2013, up from $125.9 billion in 2012, representing an increase of nearly 6.1 per cent. ODA flows to Africa increased from some $51.5 billion in 2012 to $54.1 billion in 2013, representing an increase of 5 per cent.

Total official development assistance from all donors



Source: OECD/Development Assistance Committee online database, 2014.

63. Although Africa as a region receives a larger share of Development Assistance Committee ODA, that share has remained relatively constant, averaging around 38 per cent in 2013 This is at variance with the stated commitment to prioritize Africa in aid allocation. Furthermore, in recent years there has been a noticeable shift in aid allocation towards middle-income developing countries.

64. In 2005, at the Group of Eight (G8) Summit held at Gleneagles, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, leaders set the ambitious goal to add nearly $25 billion per year to aid for Africa, doubling the levels of ODA by 2010 relative to 2004 levels. They have consistently fallen short of this goal. Preliminary data show that aid volume to Africa averaged about $47 billion in the past three years, approximately $15 billion below the 2010 level implied by the G8 commitments made at Gleneagles in 2005 (see A/69/163).

65. In the light of the inadequate aid levels to Africa relative to what is required to close the huge financing gap, the implementation of the aid effectiveness agenda assumes greater importance. The first report[3] of the global monitoring framework was released in May 2014. Measuring progress on the implementation of commitments agreed upon at the fourth high-level forum on aid effectiveness held at Busan, Republic of Korea in 2011, the report indicated sustained progress in aid untying, more open and transparent information about aid flows, and efforts by development partners to track how particular groups — such as women and girls — were faring in terms of resource allocation. According to the report, the percentage of aid budgets subject to parliamentary scrutiny increased from 57 per cent in 2010 to 64 in 2013. Some African countries, such as Cape Verde, Kenya, Lesotho and Mozambique, made substantial progress, all reaching the minimum target of 85 per cent of their scheduled development cooperation within their national budgets.

[3] World Trade Organization, Bali Ministerial declaration and decisions. Available at https://mc9.wto.org/official-documents-bali-ministerial.

C. Debt relief

66. While the international community has committed itself to helping to address the debt problems of developing countries in Africa, very little progress has been made during the reporting period. Through the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative, the status of African countries has remained unchanged in the post-completion phase, the interim phase and the pre-decision phase.

Current and potential beneficiaries of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and the Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative (as at June 2014)

Status	*Countries*
29 post-completion point countries	Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Niger, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia
1 interim country (between decision and completion point)	Chad
3 pre-decision-point countries	Eritrea, Somalia, Sudan

Source: International Monetary Fund.

67. Based on the table above, 29 African countries are still in the post-completion point as at June 2014, and continue to receive full debt relief. Chad still remains the only country in the interim phase of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and no additional debt relief has been granted during the reporting period. The World Bank, however, reported that Chad had made some progress against the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative completion-point triggers and on the achievement of several social-indicator targets. Three countries, namely, Eritrea, Somalia and the Sudan, have remained at the pre-decision phase. The World Bank, however, reported that Eritrea has made limited progress and there has been no discussion of an IMF supported programme since the last Article IV consultation in 2009. Somalia has, however, been reinitiated as an active member of IMF and the World Bank, although it remains ineligible for financial assistance due to protracted arrears. The Sudan, also in the pre-decision point, will embark on a new debt reconciliation exercise to ensure that data is fully available once the country gets closer to meeting decision-point requirements.

68. With respect to debt sustainability, an analysis carried out by IMF and the World Bank shows that most African countries are at low risk of debt distress, while around 40 per cent are at moderate risk and about one fifth of them are at high risk. However, some African countries, such as Ghana and Zambia, have undertaken

excessive fiscal expansions in recent years financed by external borrowing and, as a result have seen their debt ratios increased.

D. Foreign direct investment and other private flows

69. During the review period, foreign direct investment (FDI) to Africa was resilient and steadily increased to the levels of ODA. According to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, FDI flows to Africa increased from $50 billion in 2012 to an estimated $56.3 billion in 2013. As in the previous year, FDI flows to Africa continued to be concentrated in the extractive sectors, although services and manufacturing, including the automotive sector, leather and pharmaceuticals, represented an increased share in total FDI.

70. The increase in FDI inflows was driven by the strong performance of southern African countries, such as South Africa and Mozambique, which registered record FDI inflows of $10 billion and $7 billion, respectively. The other subregions experienced a decrease in their inflows. For instance, persistent political and social tensions continued to subdue flows to North Africa, where only Morocco registered solid growth of 24 per cent, to $3.5 billion.

71. FDI is increasingly contributing to Africa's development finance landscape and can be instrumental in developing productive capacities and removing infrastructure bottlenecks. In this regard, African countries have continued their efforts towards attracting FDI through the implementation of reforms to enhance Africa's attractiveness to foreign investors. African countries have steadily improved their positions on the World Bank's annual Ease of Doing Business rankings, with four African countries featuring among the world's top 10 reformers in 2013. Recognizing the important role of investment in Africa's development and in response to General Assembly resolution 68/294, the President of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, with substantive support from the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, convened on 17 July 2014 a high-level thematic debate of the General Assembly on the promotion of investment in Africa and its catalytic role in achieving Africa's development objectives. The meeting recognized the importance of promoting local and foreign investment to finance Africa's development priorities, including the Millennium Development Goals, the forthcoming post-2015 development agenda and the sustainable development goals. Member States stressed the need to attract investment to support productive capacity development, especially in infrastructure, manufactures and agriculture.

E. Trade

72. The international community has also pledged to promote trade initiatives, including aid for trade, in order to address supply-side constraints that limit Africa's trade capacity. African Governments have also made commitments to strengthen regional integration and intra-African trade.

73. During the Ninth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), held in Bali, Indonesia, in December 2013, Ministers adopted the "Bali Package", the first multilateral trade agreement approved by WTO. The package, which consists of 10 separate decisions,[3] covers the areas of trade facilitation, development and least developed country issues, agriculture and cotton.

74. Specifically, the trade facilitation agreement contains commitments aimed at reducing trade transaction costs, increasing transparency and better harmonizing customs formalities. This could provide greater incentive to increase trade and reduce tariffs. This could benefit Africa, given the high cost of trading. For example, an analysis of comprehensive trade costs reveals that disproportionately high transaction costs hamper not only Africa's trade with the rest of the world, but also viable regional integration, particularly across Regional Economic Communities.

75. Following the Fourth Global Review of the Aid for Trade Initiative, held in Geneva, Switzerland in July 2013, aid for trade flows have rebounded with Africa as the largest beneficiary. Aid for trade resources committed to Africa increased from $13.1 billion in 2011 to $21.3 billion in 2012, representing an increase of 55 per cent over 2011. Africa's share of aid for trade was 30 per cent during 2002-05 but rose to 40 per cent in 2012.

F. South-South cooperation

76. South-South cooperation, under the principle of solidarity and mutual benefits, continued to provide support to Africa's growth and sustainable development as a complement to North-South cooperation. During the review period, African strategic partnerships with key emerging economies continued to make progress, particularly through meetings, trade, ODA, FDI and institution-building.

77. At the international level, the organization of the Global South-South Development Expo held in Nairobi in November 2013 provided a platform for showcasing successful southern-grown development solutions for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. As a result, $450 million was pledged between investors, green businesses, Governments and other stakeholders, covering projects ranging from building organic fertilizer factories and clean energy projects in Kenya to solar power plants in Uganda and green businesses for women in Egypt. In addition, in June 2014, the Group of 77 and China convened a summit in Santa Cruz, Plurinational State of Bolivia, to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Group in June 1964. The commemorative declaration stressed the importance of cooperation and partnerships to reduce inequality, end poverty and fight climate change, all with the aim to create a new sustainable development framework.

78. Following the adoption of the eThekwini Declaration and Action Plan, cooperation among Brazil, the Russian Federation, India, China and South Africa, was given a major impetus with the establishment of two financial institutions: a development bank with $50 billion and a currency reserve pool of $100 billion. The Fund will enable countries to address any developments on the foreign exchange market.

79. Over the past year, Africa has enhanced its cooperation with China in key areas such as trade, FDI and aid. In 2013, Chinese-African trade surpassed the $200 billion mark for the first time. In May 2014, China reaffirmed its commitment to Africa's development, including construction of the China-Africa Development Bank, headquartered in Nairobi, with a capital allocation of $2.5 billion.

80. Africa also deepened its cooperation with other key partners of the global South, such as Brazil. In March 2014, Brazil, in collaboration with the World Bank,

organized the fifth South-South Learning Forum to promote the exchange of knowledge among practitioners from low-income and middle-income countries on ways to improve the design of social protection and labour systems at the policy, programme and service delivery levels.

81. Africa's cooperation with India also continued to grow. Indian investment in Africa has surged, with major investments in information and communications technology, energy, engineering, chemicals, pharmaceuticals and automobiles sectors. Similarly, cooperation with the countries of the Gulf also strengthened. The third Africa-Arab Summit, held in Kuwait City in November 2013, enhanced cooperation between African and Arab States. At that summit, Kuwait committed to granting $1 billion in concessionary loans to African countries over the next five years, including funding for investment and insurance guarantee.

G. Millennium Village Project

82. The Millennium Village Project continued to help ten countries to reduce extreme poverty and hunger, improve education, health and gender equality. During the review period, progress was made in reducing child hunger, promoting gender equality, reducing child mortality, and providing access to safe drinking water. For example, the Project's Community Health Worker programme has been strengthened by newer and better eHealth systems. The Millennium Village Project contributed to the adoption of strategies for improving the system to ensure quality care, delivery of life-saving health interventions and provision of a critical link between health centres and families in rural areas.

83. Building on progress to date, the Project's strategic priorities moving forward are to focus on areas where progress is lagging, while starting the transition of project interventions to the local level ahead of a complete handover in one year. In an effort to consolidate lessons learned from the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, the envisaged Millennium Village Project's impact evaluation exercise and its findings will be a good input for Member States as they finalize the post-2015 development framework.

IV. Support provided by the United Nations system

A. General

84. The United Nations system is one of the main pillars of international support for the implementation of NEPAD. Support by its entities at the regional, subregional and national levels takes various forms, ranging from technical assistance, capacity-building and funding to advocacy and normative work. The most recent report by the Secretary-General on United Nations system support for NEPAD (E/AC.51/2014/3) contains detailed information on the nature and scope of the support provided during the past year.

B. Strengthening of the regional coordination mechanism of United Nations agencies and organizations working in Africa in support of the African Union, its New Partnership for Africa's Development and the cluster system

85. During the reporting period, the United Nations system strengthened the regional coordination mechanism for Africa in support of the implementation of NEPAD and the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme of the African Union. All nine thematic clusters of the mechanism developed demand-driven business plans and work programmes based on the key priorities of the African Union and its NEPAD programme. The mechanism has proved useful in coordinating United Nations system inputs at the regional level, as well as support for Africa's development in important regional and global processes.

86. The cluster system enhanced the level and quality of its cooperation through improved information-sharing, increased intracluster activities and frequent cluster meetings. The mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues within the clusters, particularly gender and youth issues, was also enhanced significantly.

87. At the fourteenth session of the mechanism, held in November 2013, it was decided to hold future sessions back-to-back with the joint annual meetings of the ECA Conference of Ministers of Finance, Planning and Development and the African Union Conference of Ministers of Economy and Finance, in order to provide a platform for the United Nations leadership to engage directly and with African Ministers, gain broader perspectives on Africa's development aspirations and generate momentum for the mechanism's activities by raising the level of participation.

88. The fifteenth session of the mechanism, held in March 2014 in Abuja, highlighted the need for all clusters of the mechanism to be aligned with the strategic vision of the African Union and NEPAD strategic plans for 2014-2017 and the forthcoming Agenda 2063. In view of the 2016 expiration of the Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme, the African Union Commission, the NEPAD Agency, regional economic commissions, AfDB and the United Nations were called upon to establish a technical working group to formulate a comprehensive and long-term successor programme of United Nations support to the African Union.

V. Conclusion and recommendations

89. **African countries continued to make progress in the implementation of the NEPAD agenda. In the decade since its establishment, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme has served as an important framework for agriculture development and has helped to place the sector at the centre of development. African countries have also intensified efforts to accelerate infrastructure development. Important national and regional infrastructure projects in transport, water, energy and information and communications technologies are being rolled out across the continent, primarily funded through domestic resource mobilization. Progress has also been evident in the implementation of other NEPAD priority sectors, including health, education and gender mainstreaming. An increasing number of**

countries are attaching great importance to good governance, as evidenced by the implementation of the African Peer Review Mechanism.

90. On the international front, ODA to Africa increased, reversing the downward trend of the past two years. FDI flows continued their upward trend, despite global economic uncertainty. With respect to trade, despite progress made at the last WTO Ministerial Summits on trade facilitation and least developed country issues, progress on the long-simmering issue of agricultural subsidies remains elusive. Furthermore, the conclusion of the Doha Round of Trade negotiations remains stalled. All of these factors risk derailing recent development gains, including progress towards achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. The consideration of the recommendations set out below will be important in this regard.

91. Agriculture holds the key to Africa's transformation. In view of the decision by the African Union Summit to declare 2014 the Year of Agriculture and Food Security, African countries should further prioritize agriculture in their national budgets, in line with the Maputo Declaration. In support of these efforts, Africa's development partners should make every effort to increase financing for Africa's agriculture in line with relevant commitments, including those contained in the L'Aquila Food Security Initiative.

92. Development of infrastructure will be key to unleashing Africa's growth potential. While progress has been made in the implementation of the Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa, lack of financing remains a serious challenge. There is need to leverage private sector participation in infrastructure through innovative public-private partnerships as underscored by the Dakar Agenda for Action. Africa's development partners should support Africa's infrastructure development by honouring their commitments and encouraging their private sectors to participate in infrastructure projects in Africa.

93. Gender equality and women's empowerment can accelerate development outcomes by increasing women's access to and control over resources, and generate broader productivity gains, improve women and girls' status and many other development outcomes. Therefore, gender and women's empowerment issues must be mainstreamed into national development policy frameworks in order to undergird efforts towards gender equality.

94. While encouraging progress was made at the Ninth World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference held in Bali, Indonesia on important issues such as trade facilitation, agriculture and least developed country development, superior trade benefits can be realized only through the conclusion of the Doha Round. In this regard, Member States should seize the momentum created at Bali and forge ahead to conclude the round while simultaneously focusing on the implementation of the Bali agreement. In particular, increased aid for trade will be needed to support Africa's implementation of the trade facilitation agreement.

95. International support will be indispensable in supporting Africa's achievement of sustainable development. In this regard, Africa's development partners should make efforts to deliver on their pledges to Africa, especially through increased ODA, technology transfer and FDI, including investment in

infrastructure and other NEPAD priority sectors. For their part, African countries should leverage ODA so as to attract the private investment that is necessary to implement the continent's priorities that have been articulated in its transformative agenda.

96. Translating Africa's impressive growth into sustained social development and poverty reduction requires bold and targeted public policy measures to diversify the economy and encourage value addition, which will be important for employment creation. Given the fact that industrialization constitutes a core pillar of Africa's transformative agenda, there is need for the international community to align its support to Africa's emerging priorities and reorient aid allocation accordingly.

97. With 2015 rapidly approaching, efforts must be intensified to accelerate progress towards attaining the Millennium Development Goals in Africa, the only region that is off track in meeting most of the goals. In view of the ongoing intergovernmental negotiations on the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda, particular consideration should be given to Africa's development priorities as articulated in the African Common Position on the post-2015 development agenda, the outcome document of the Africa Regional Consultation on the Sustainable Development Goals, the solemn declaration on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Organization of African Unity/ African Union and the forthcoming Agenda 2063. Africa's special needs must also be given due consideration with regard to means of implementation, including financing, capacity development, trade, South-South cooperation and technology transfer.